

# America's Radio City

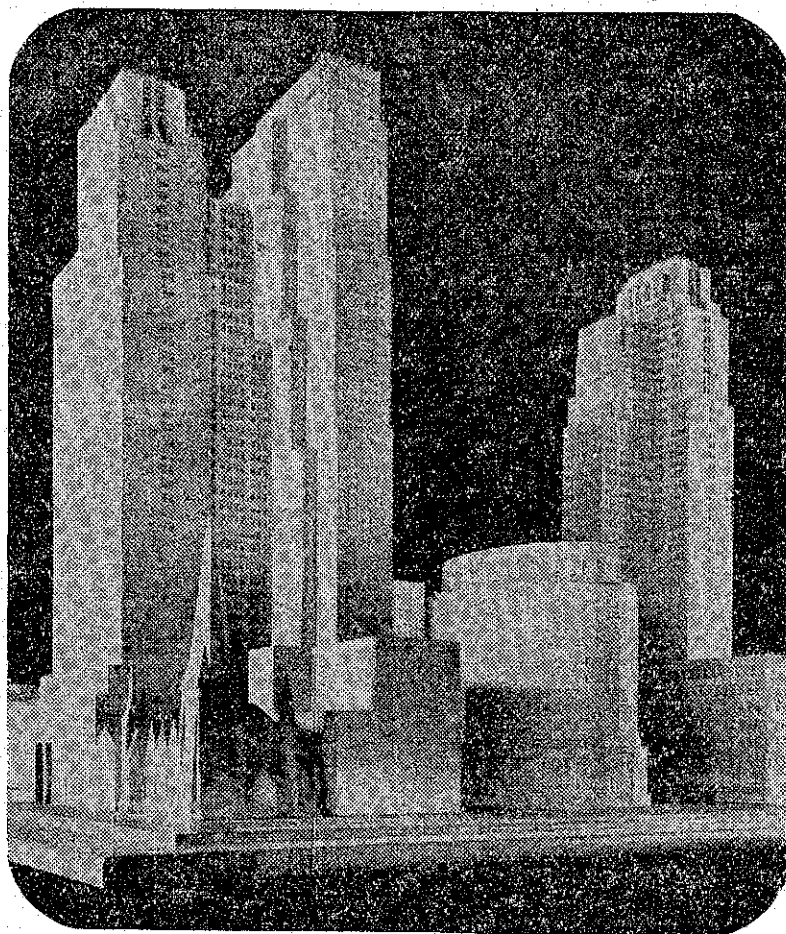
## Proposed Mammoth Block of Buildings Illustrates Important Place Radio is Taking in World Affairs

**P**ERHAPS no better illustration of the place radio is taking in world affairs could be given than by the fact that in the capitals of the three leading nations of the world—England, America and Germany—mammoth buildings, costing millions of pounds, to house the headquarters of the various controlling radio companies, have either just been completed or are under construction. The latest and most ambitious project yet announced is that of the proposed "Radio City" in New York.

Some idea of the vastness of the undertaking is given when it is known that the estimated cost of the project is roughly £50,000,000!

Perhaps the most curious feature of the design is that the lower 15 floors of the great central skyscraper will be entirely without windows. And yet this is not due to cramping. On the other hand, the individual buildings are to be so placed as not to cut off one another's light and air, and the proportion of window space in them will be considerably larger than in older structures. No—the oddity comes about in this way. The National Broadcasting Company is to occupy the lower 15 stories, and for its purposes the air in that section is to be "conditioned," as engineers call it. It will be heated in winter, cooled in summer, and at all times filled with the right amount of moisture. In summer the air will not simply be cooled. This, when there is much humidity in the air, results in clamminess. As the temperature is reduced, the moisture is precipitated and collects about a room as it would gather on a pitcher of iced water in warm air. To avoid clamminess, air will be driven through a spray of cold water, which will take out the excess moisture. It is calculated that from 1200 to 1500 tons of ice a day will be required to produce the cold spray.

The methods by which the studio of the National Broadcasting Company will be made soundproof are as spectacular as the way in which the air will be "reconditioned." There will be 27 of these studios, the smaller ones extending through two stories, and the larger ones through three. The reason for so many studios is not, of course, that they are needed for actual broadcasting in any single programme. But an immense amount of rehearsal is necessary, and it takes time



£50,000,000 Scheme.—A model of "Radio City," to be built in New York, as it will appear from Fifth Avenue. The central building will be 68 stories in height.

to fix up a studio for a given purpose. Walls and ceilings have to be draped so that the acoustics will be right for a particular performance. What in radio jargon is called "room score" is as important as musical score.

Of each studio it may almost be said that it will be one room floating in another. The inside room, or studio proper, will be suspended from the ceiling of the interior room by wires. In the space between the two rooms will be what the engineers call spring clips with rubber and felt insulation. Sound absorption will be equally good in the doors and windows—that is, interior windows. Doors will be leaden, two and a half inches thick. Windows will have triple panes of glass set in rubber.

**I**N addition to the generous provisions for light and air in the office buildings, special attention will be paid to heating. This involves more difficulties in tall buildings than the average person might imagine. A high building when heated becomes a veritable flue or chimney in cold weather. The hot air rises in the elevator shafts and cold draughts sift in through the windows of the lower floors to take its place. This action is likely to make the lower floors too

chilly at the same time that the upper ones are too warm.

A different plan will be adopted in the high offices of Radio City. There all the windows will have double weather strips, consisting of double rows of flexible zinc pushed together by the outside air, so that the greater pressure of the latter becomes the more difficulty there will be for it to get through.

So far as artificial lighting in the building goes, that will be left to the future judgment of illuminating engineers. For the present the builders will content themselves by putting in an abundance of electric ducts. It is expected that there may be a specially heavy demand for electricity in the quarters of the National Broadcasting Company, if television is taken up.

The important buildings of Radio City will be detached. This may surprise some who expected that they might be built, on each block at least, covering the space like a range of mountains with peaks and valleys. Instead, the buildings rise from (Concluded on page 2.)